# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 JANUARY 1983

## Tabah Incident

Israel's Foreign Ministry has instructed the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to protest to the Egyptian Government over an incident in Tabah which Israel regards as a violation of the peace treaty, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the radio, the incident began when Egyptian workers guarded by armed gendarmerie destroyed the fence to the demilitarized zone bordering on Tabah, entered the area, and prepared to erect a building. Harsh verbal exchanges ensued between the Israeli and Egyptian liaison officers and the Israeli representative to the joint Israeli-Egyptian committee lodged an official complaint about the incursion and asked the Egyptians to stop their activity at once.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman subsequently announced that the whole affair was merely an "unintentional mistake" committed while Egyptian workers were undertaking operations to "improve service" at the Egyptian outlet of Tabah, MENA reported. Conditions at Tabah were being restored to their previous state, he added. Jerusalem radio shortly afterward confirmed that the situation at Tabah has returned to what it was before the incident and that the Egyptians have agreed to remove their equipment and reerect the fence they had pulled down. IDF Radio noted earlier that Israel and Egypt were holding contacts to settle the matter, which Israeli official sources described as a "local incident." Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i said Israel should not show restraint in view of such a "blatant violation" of the peace treaty since this would encourage additional violations, the radio reported.

## Israel

Peace Council, PLO Meeting -- Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace members Uri Avneri, Ya'aqov Arnon, and Matityahu Peled met last week with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that PLO officials Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Isam Sartawi, and 'Imad Shakkur attended the meeting. A joint communique on the meeting said that the two sides discussed ways to promote together a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, according to the radio. During interviews with Jerusalem television and radio, Peled did not confirm the venue of the meeting, but said 'Arafat was "definitely adamant" in his decision to promote political moves toward a "political arrangement" acceptable to all parties. Peled said both sides talked about future meetings with "fewer misunderstandings" and "less furtiveness" than in the past. Asked if council members would go as observers to the February PNC session, Peled indicated they would go if invited. He added that the possibility of receiving an invitation was discussed, but that nothing was decided yet.

Sources at Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office said: "'Arafat met with a fringe element in Israeli society and not those who represent mainstream opinion here," THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

Defense Agreement With Zaire -- A "multiannual" defense cooperation agreement was signed with Zaire, Jerusalem television reported. According to the agreement, Israel will recruit, equip, and retrain a division in Shaba Province, expand the IDF delegation to Zaire, and supply communications equipment, cannon, mortars, and possibly patrol boats, the television added. Jerusalem radio noted that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has returned to Israel.

## Lebanon

Qiryat Shemona Talks -- After agreeing in the morning to establish three new subcommittees, the delegations subsequently decided to form another subcommittee on possible

guarantees, Jerusalem radio reported. Both Israeli and Lebanese spokesmen said progress was made at the Qiryat Shemona talks, according to communiques broadcast by Jerusalem and Beirut radios. Although Jerusalem radio said the Lebanese had rejected Israel's demand for Israeli-manned early warning stations in Lebanon, the radio later cited an Israeli Foreign Ministry denial that the Lebanese side had raised objections to the stations. Without mentioning the stations, Beirut radio said that while the negotiations took place in good spirits, certain difficulties could not be overcome because of "unacceptable demands" by both sides. The Lebanese rejected an Israeli proposal concerning liaison, and lengthy discussions took place on the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and on the "usual conditions" Israel is raising for the withdrawal of its forces, the radio added.

Military, Security Situation -- The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported large-scale Syrian military moves in the Al-Biqa' Valley. Earlier, Druze and Christian militia exchanged fire in the 'Alayh area, according to the Voice of Lebanon radio.

## Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived on an official visit, Damascus radio announced. Tehran radio, citing informed sources, reported that Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi would also visit Syria at the same time for what is expected to be a tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers. Meanwhile, an AL-BA'TH commentary reviewed by Damascus radio accused the United States of "preparing Israel to attack Syria." The United States is making a "clamor" over Syria's acquisition of weapons for self-defense because it is worried that the "aggression" will not be easy and will not produce "guaranteed results," AL-BA'TH asserted.

## PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat met in Tunis with a British Foreign Office delegation for talks on the Arab seven-member committee's visit to Britain and on Britain's position on the Palestinian issue, Tunis radio reported.

The PLO Executive Committee and the leaders of the different PLO factions will start a series of meetings in Aden on 25 January, a PLO spokesman announced in a statement reported by the Ash-Shariqah paper AL-KHALIJ. Noting that the recent Executive Committee meeting in Damascus discussed 'Arafat's visit to Moscow, the spokesman said the results of that visit are "very important."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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## TALKS ON GANGES FLOW AUGMENTATION END 17 JANUARY

BK180335 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The Bangladesh-India joint committee of water experts concluded its 3-day meeting in Dhaka yesterday.

A joint press release issued at the end of the meeting in Dhaka said that the committee had detailed discussions and fixed modalities of pre-feasibility studies of the two sides' projects for augmenting dry season Ganges flows.

The Bangladesh projects seek cooperation among Bangladesh, India, and Nepal for construction of storage dams in Nepal for harnessing the Ganges water for augmentation of its dry season flows. On the other hand, the Indian projects propose to dig a canal across Bangladesh to divert the Brahamputra water to the Ganges, augmenting the Ganges flow.

The two sides agreed to meet again at a mutually convenient date to continue the discussions for submitting its recommendations within demanded period of 4 to 6 weeks.

The committee sources said it will hold the next meeting to complete the task before or around the time the ministerial-level meeting is scheduled to meet in Dhaka on the 1st of next month to give its recommendations to the Joint Rivers Commission [JRC].

The committee was set up at the meeting of the JRC held last month in New Delhi with the task of giving the recommendations within 4 to 6 weeks. The JRC was given the responsibility of preparing the terms of reference and the work schedule for the pre-feasibility studies by the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries during the talks of Chief Martial Law Administration Lieutenant General N.M. Ershad and Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in October last in New Delhi.

## BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SRV -- The Bangladesh ambassador to Burma, Keramat Ali, has been concurrently accredited as ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. [Text] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 16 Jan 83 BK]

GANDHI TO CONSULT OPPOSITION LEADERS ON PUNJAB

BK201613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister will be having consultations with the opposition leaders tomorrow on the Punjab situation. Members of the Cabinet subcommittee, who have been discussing the problem with the Akali leaders, will be present.

The subcommittee today discussed with the chief ministers of Haryana and Rajasthan some of the Akali demands which are of an interstate nature. In the discussions that were held in New Delhi, Home Minister P.C. Sethi, Defense Minister R. Venkataraman, and Minister for Petroleum and Energy Shiv Shakar took part. They were assisted by Prime Minister's Secretary P.C. Alexander, Cabinet Secretary Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, and Home Secretary T.N. Chaturvedi. Besides the two chief ministers -- Bhajan Lal and Shiv Charan Mathur -- the irrigation and fisheries ministers of the two states also took part in the discussions.

Replying to questions by newsmen, Sethi said that the center is always prepared to hold talks with the Akalis and expressed the hope that a solution would be possible before the 26th of this month.

At Chandigarh, Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh said that the center and the state governments are making genuine efforts to resolve the Punjab tangle. Darbara Singh left for Delhi this evening and he is expected to have discussions with the Cabinet subcommittee and other senior leaders.

Meanwhile in Amritsar, Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has said that any invitation from the center for further talks will be considered on merit.

SUPREME COURT RULES ON ASSAM ELECTIONS

BK210847 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Here is a flash. The Supreme Court has dismissed the plea against holding elections in Assam. The court gave this ruling today. The details are awaited.

FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY LEAVES ON AFRICAN TOUR

BK191625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Additional Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Dr J.S. Teja has left on a tour of five African countries for consultations on the coming nonaligned summit in New Delhi. He has gone to Mauritius, from where he will proceed to Kenya -- the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity -- and later to Ethiopia, Zambia, and Tanzania.

INDIA'S NATWAR SINGH DEPARTS 20 JANUARY

BK201545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Natwar Singh, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of India, left Karachi this afternoon for New Delhi after a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. Earlier, he exchanged views with the Sind chief secretary on matters of mutual interest.

UAE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON PRIVATE VISIT

BK201539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Karachi this afternoon on a private visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi.

NEW PRESIDENT OF AZAD KASHMIR APPOINTED

BK201617 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Retired Major General Abdur Rahman Khan will become the president of Azad Kashmir. He will assume office on 1 February.

Retired Maj Gen Abdur Rahman Khan was appointed president in place of Brigadier General Mohammad Heyat Khan who is resuming his military responsibilites after his illustrious services as president of Azad Kashmir for 5 years. During his presidency, Brig Gen Heyat worked actively and indefatigably for the development of Azad Kashmir and for the welfare and prosperity of its people.

The president of Pakistan has appreciated Brig Gen Heyat's efforts and thanked him for discharging his duties with full dedication and diligence.

BRIEFS

COMOROS RICE PURCHASE -- An agreement for the purchase of 26,000 tons of Pakistani rice by Comoros was signed in Karachi on 18 January. The leader of the visiting Comoros delegation and minister for foreign affairs and trade, Said Kafe, signed the agreement on behalf of his country, while the chairman of the Rice Export Corporation signed on behalf of Pakistan. The shipment will begin in about 3 months time. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83 BK]

PRC BORDER CARAVAN -- The 33-member Chinese border trade caravan left Gilgit for Xinjiang on 18 January via Khnujerab Pass. It was given a warm sendoff. During its 2-week stay in Gilgit, the caravan exchanged 40 Chinese items with Pakistani goods of the value of 2 million rupees under the border trade agreement signed last year. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83 BK]

## NEPAL

### ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING WITH BANGLADESH ENDS

BK161656 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Nepal and Bangladesh today concluded the Joint Economic Commission's [JEC] fourth meeting with a call for making the commission an effective instrument in coordinating and promoting a program for mutual prosperity.

At the meeting, both the countries reiterated the need for further strengthening of the JEC to effectively promote economic cooperation for mutual benefit. Finance Minister Dr Yadav Prashad Pant and Bangladesh Minister for Finance and Planning A.M.A. Muhith signed the minutes at the meeting in Katmandu today. They also exchanged letters for extending the term of the JEC for the next 5 years.

Talking to journalists after signing the minues, Dr Pant and Muhith said the commission met in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship. The JEC had two committee meetings. In addition, three working groups also met to prepare reports on the broad areas of cooperation, such as industries, including joint ventures, agriculture and water resources development and trade transit facilities and banking, tourism development, civil aviation, telecommunication and technical cooperation. The commission also decided to hold the fifth session in Dhaka in early 1984.

Finance Minister Yadav Prashad Pant addressing the concluding plenary session of the JEC earlier said the fourth meeting of the JEC has whipped up an action-oriented time-bound program for bilateral cooperation. A specific program has been chalked out for boosting cooperation in the field of trade, industry, tourism, technical cooperation, and joint industrial ventures, Dr Pant said, adding [word indistinct] measures to follow up the decisions taken for Nepal-Bangladesh cooperation at the recent Katmandu solidarity ministerial meeting have also been worked out.

The leader of the Bangladesh delegation stressed the need to promote cooperation among developing countries. Referring to the growing ties of Nepal-Bangladesh, he hoped that relations will be further consolidated in the years to come. The Bangladesh delegation left Katmandu for home today.

### NEPALI CONGRESS LEADER DENOUNCES POLICE ACTION

BK171127 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jan 83 p 9

[Text] Katmandu, Jan 10. The general secretary of the banned Nepali Congress, Mr Girija Prashad Koirala, who was among the injured in a police crackdown on a student conference in Kapilbastu District in western Nepal on January 7, on Monday said the policy lathi-charged for about 20 minutes without any provocation.

Giving details of the police attack, allegedly led by the chief district officer, at a press conference here Mr Koirala said altogether 185 workers of the party were injured in the incident. Some of them, including women, suffered serious injuries while they tried to save Mr Koirala, "the target of the attack" from being injured.

He said the part played by the local administration was politically motivated and added that it was a resurgence of incidents that were being waged against them for the last 20 years.

Mr Koirala also said that in spite of our best efforts for a policy of reconciliation, the government has responded with force. Despite the incident, he said, he would continue to travel to different parts of the country to make the people understand party's declared policy of reconciliation.

Acting president of the Nepali Congress, Mr Krishna Prashad Bhattarai, who was also present at the press conference, has demanded a public apology from the government on the incident saying that it should assume full responsibility for "such barbaric acts of cruelty."

## SRI LANKA

### STATE OF EMERGENCY 'ALLOWED TO LAPSE'

BK200900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the state of emergency lapsed at midnight last night, 3 months after its imposition. Several opposition leaders who were taken into custody under emergency laws were released on Tuesday night, a day before the government allowed the emergency to lapse. The emergency was declared on the 20th of October immediately after polling for the presidential election was over.

### ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON 'NONALIGNED POLICY'

BK191514 Colombo SUN in English 14 Jan 83 p 3

[By Chris Dharmakisrti]

[Text] The government makes no bones about the fact that Sri Lanka is anti-communist, Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando declared yesterday.

"Should communism rule this nation, the era of restrictions, shortages and other evils will emerge," he told a Rotary Club luncheon meeting at Hotel Taprobane, speaking on Sri Lanka's foreign policy.

"Our democratic leadership has created freedom. The UNP [United National Party] is not a 'banning-government'. We oppose communism, but that does not mean we are not friendly with Russia. In fact, the Soviet Union respects us more after Sri Lanka condemned the Russian aggression in Afghanistan.

"We are not going to be dictated to by any foreign power. Our non-aligned policy is a very realistic policy. It is dictated by our independence. For, after 450 years of foreign domination, or rather exploitation, naturally this nation steers clear of the influence of any super power," he said.

Mr. Fernando declared that Sri Lanka did not like to be pressurised by powerful nations.

"We try to be independent to preserve our integrity in the eyes of the world," he said.

"No foreign super-power will be given a 'base' or military facilities in our country. For our foreign policy is not geared to achive economic returns alone.

"In 1968, the then UNP government declined the offer to become a founder member of ASEAN. One of the reasons then was the fact that ASEAN was anti-China. However, the government is keen to join ASEAN for we feel that ASEAN has a different outlook today. It is an economic grouping in Asia, and Sri Lanka's development could be benefited by becoming a member of ASEAN. Since all ASEAN members are non-communist nations, Sri Lanka fits in well.

"We even declined the United States offer to become a member of the then SEATO. Sri Lanka was one of the first nations to recognize China. The Americans were against us on that issue. However, today, China and America are friends and Sri Lanka had continued to maintain good relations with both nations.

"In more recent times, when former President Jimmy Carter wanted us to keep away from the Moscow Olympics, Sri Lanka decided to send a team.

"Foreign policy is not an academic exercise. It is a highly practical one. We are from day to day caught up in international turbulances. We are caught up in cross-currents. In all these, Sri Lanka projects an independent foreign policy," he said.

Mr. Fernando, speaking on Sri Lanka's development, observed that a little bit of the rat race is necessary for development of the country.

"Our country is going through a mass transformation. We have been suddenly sprung into '20th century'. However, our continuing stability cannot be taken for granted," he concluded.

VELAYATI MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS FOR DAMASCUS

LD201202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for Damascus this morning at the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation to have discussions with Syrian officials. During this trip, regional issues and problems will be discussed.

In connection with this trip, it has been learned from informed sources that 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, will arrive in Syria at the same time. It is expected that a meeting of the foreign affairs ministers of Syria, Iran, and Libya will be held in Damascus.

Concerning his trip to Syria in view of present conditions, recent developments in the region, and the various visits to Baghdad, the foreign minister said before his departure: [begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our analysis of the visits which are (?repeatedly) being made to Baghdad is that Saddam's supporters are increasingly concerned about the growing weakness of that regime and the rising probability of his imminent downfall. There are many signs showing that due to the weakness of Iraq's Government it has been unable to meet its financial commitments in various parts of the world. On the war fronts, the declining Iraqi Armed Forces have found it very difficult to continue their resistance. Those who are realists do not believe that Iraq's Government can continue to withstand the pressures facing it, that it will fall in the near future, that the Iraqi people will get rid of the evil of such a tyrannical government, and God willing, the Iraqi people themselves will elect a government worthy of them. The efforts made by the French Government to muster support and to bring together the supporters of the Iraqi Government are, in fact, due to the French Government's fear concerning the risks surrounding the huge investments it made in Iraq during the past few years. However, we don't think these efforts will produce any tangible results for the government of Baghdad.

Basically, America incited Saddam to attack Iran and, in fact, Saddam has been the main cause of insecurity in the region while America has been acting behind the scenes. This is because America wants to justify its presence in the very sensitive and vital Persian Gulf region and to give rise to a false feeling of insecurity among our neighbors, so that it later can convince those who are basically against the presence of the superpowers in this region that it is necessary for American soldiers to be in the Persian Gulf. This has been America's main goal in inciting the war against the Islamic Republic.

However, contrary to the truth, America has waged and is waging a propaganda war to the effect that the Islamic Republic is the source of fear among the countries of the region while we have repeatedly announced our position. The behavior of the Islamic Republic during the 4 years since the revolution has demonstrated that we are in favor of normal and friendly relations and good-neighborliness with all our neighbors, especially with the Muslim countries. Therefore, there is no reason for the neighboring countries, especially Persian Gulf countries, to have any worries on this account, provided that they act reasonably and refrain from some of their attempts to assist Saddam. This is because no matter who they are, it is clear that their armed forces and their capabilities are no stronger than those of Saddam. It is natural that if they continue on this path they will receive the same response given to Saddam.

Therefore, our analysis is that these visits, rather than being a sign of the Iraqi Government, are, in fact, a sign of its weakness and of the worries of the supporters of Saddam.

With the passing of time, the forecasts of the Islamic Republic that Israel and America under no circumstances will be content with the concessions that the reactionary Arabs have made to them are becoming more apparent. This shows that we were right in maintaining that one should have a decisive and uncompromising attitude toward Israel. Unfortunately, after the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the process of compromise and concessions in the Middle East has gained greater momentum. Now we see that despite all the concessions being made to Israel, each day Israel is demanding new concessions. Not only has it not withdrawn from its former positions, on the contrary, it is making preparations for further political and military offensives. The fact that there has been some publicity in the Western press that Syria has stationed antiaircraft missiles in, for instance, the Homs region, is being used to justify Israel's actions and its future invasions and aggressions. We believe now is the time for realistic and progressive Arabs in the region to pay attention to the fact that it is in the interests of all Arabs and Muslims to start a serious and decisive confrontation in the region. The progressive forces of the region should come together and combine their efforts so that they will be able to confront this aggression which is not bound by any human principles.

The discussions between Lebanon and Israel also will produce no results. Not only will the discussions not be in the interests of the Lebanese people, on the contrary, they will consolidate Israeli sovereignty in the occupied territories in Lebanon and in other places. The position of weakness which has been adopted by the Lebanese Government certainly will not be in the interest of the Lebanese people. The future will prove that, as in the past, the forecasts of the Islamic Republic, warning the Arabs to beware of dealing with Israel from a position of weakness and not to make compromises have been correct because Israel, which is an aggressive and bullying country, understands nothing but the language of force. [end of recording]

According to political observers, in view of the sensitive situation in the region, the meeting between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the two progressive Arab countries of Syria and Libya is of great importance.

Reportage on Visit

For Damascus reportage on the official visit of Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Syria, including his meeting with Syrian President al-Asad, see the Syria section of the 20 January Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MINISTRY DENIES TASS TEHRAN OFFICE CLOSURE

LD211010 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 21 Jan 83

["TASS Office Not Closed Down" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20 IRNA -- The Ministry of Ershad Islami (Islamic Guidance) on Thursday refuted the rumours that the Soviet news agency TASS's Tehran bureau has been closed down.

The Foreign Press Department of the Ershad Islami Ministry told IRNA that the residence permit of the Soviet correspondent has not been renewed as this newsman had not observed the formalities needed in this respect. This, added the ministry, does not mean the closure of the Tehran bureau of TASS news agency.

AFP Report

NC201440 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20 (AFP) -- Iran's refusal to renew visa facilities for the Soviet TASS news agency's correspondent here this month was triggered by the reporter's "lack of journalistic activity", the Islamic Orientation Ministry said here today.

Following the ministry's refusal to renew Oleg Zuinko's press credentials and visa, TASS had decided to close its bureau here, reliable sources reported here yesterday.

A spokesman for the ministry's press office said that Mr. Zuinko "never attended press conferences or went on trips to the Iraqi-Iranian war front". He had also failed to report on the last Iraqi bombing of Dezful, on December 19, "despite the fact that the casualty toll was high", the spokesman added. He stressed that this was why Iran had decided not to renew the correspondent's credentials, but added that the authorities were ready to "examine the case of any other journalist from this agency (TASS)".

There are currently another 15 foreign journalists based here -- eight Japanese, two Chinese, a Syrian, a Libyan, an Italian, a Yugoslav and one French.

OPEC PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR TALKS 20 JANUARY

LD201210 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA -- OPEC president and special advisor of the Nigerian president in petroleum and energy, Alhaji Yahya Dikko, arrived here this morning at the head of a delegation to hold talks with Iranian oil officials.

Abbas Honardoost, Iranian Oil Ministry international under secretary, told IRNA that the objective of Dikko's visit to Iran was mainly to provide preliminaries for the forthcoming OPEC meet due to be held in Geneva on Jan. 23.

Dikko had recently visited a number of oil producing amirates in the Persian Gulf region in this connection, Honardoost added.

NABAVI TALKS WITH TURKISH ENERGY MINISTER

GF201932 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fahir Ilkel today conferred with Behzad Nabavi, the minister of heavy industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the course of the talks, the Iranian minister pointed to the fact that the agreements concluded between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are the most successful agreements reached after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and expressed the hope for a speedy development of economic relations between the two countries. In connection with this, he also expressed the hope that the preparations for the meeting of the ministers of the two countries in Turkey will now be undertaken.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,189

LD202227 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,189 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots hereby are informed of the situation on the fronts of the imposed war.

Islam's selfless combatants on the western fronts yesterday defended their defensive positions; continued to fire on the positions of the Saddamists; and while controlling the movements of the Saddamist forces and halting their artillery and heavy weapons fire, inflicted losses and casualties on Iraq's Zionist mercenaries.

On the Sumar front, the strike groups and patrol units of our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy, crossed the Iraqi defensive line, and killed several of the enemy, capturing 26 Kalashnikovs, two radios, and seven RPG-7's.

During an exchange of fire on the Marivan front, our Ground Forces' heavy artillery fire pounded certain enemy positions in the Haft Suy (Tavaana) and Benaveyleh Kohneh regions, inflicted appreciable losses on the positions and equipment of the Iraqi forces, silenced their artillery fire, and killed or wounded several of the enemy.

An exchange of fire continued on the southern fronts. During the past 24 hours, Islam's combatants did their utmost to consolidate their defensive positions, while simultaneously keeping enemy movements and operations under observation. At the right time, they opened artillery and heavy weapons fire and neutralized the activities of the Saddamist forces.

Our naval heroes and Gendarmerie combatants yesterday retaliated against the Saddamist forces' fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts and inflicted appreciable losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. According to Gendarmerie reports, the losses suffered by the Saddamist forces on these fronts included the destruction of two ammuntion dumps, one mortar launcher and several light and heavy weapons emplacements and observation posts and the killing or wounding of several of the enemy.

The criminal Saddamist mercenaries yesterday subjected the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr to their artillery and heavy weapons fire, damaging four houses and part of a hospital.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

COMMENTARY VIEWS 'SOVIET STANCE AGAINST IRAN'

GF210646 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Stance of the Soviet Union Regarding the Iran-Iraq War"]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] the Western bloc, which suffered numerous blows as a result of the victory achieved by the Islamic Revolution, sided with Saddam from the very beginning of the war and began supporting the Iraqi regime both politically and militarily. The Eastern bloc, however, pursued a unique but confused attitude which brought to light the Eastern bloc's displeasure over the victories achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the later stages of the war -- irrespective of this bloc's initial stance of satisfaction over the commencement of the war in the first place.

The expectations of the Eastern bloc and the Soviet Union regarding the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran also are related to the impasse the Soviet Union has entered in its offensive against the land of Afghanistan. When the Soviet Union commenced its offensive against Afghanistan, the world turned its attention to the Soviet aims behind its assault, particularly to its move toward the Persian Gulf and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. In fact, demonstrations were organized at the time in a number of capitals around the world. However, the Soviet Union, which failed to make the expected response to these demonstrations, knew that it could not maintain its stance for a long time. The war against the Islamic Republic focused the world's attention on Iran and this became a good opportunity for the Soviet Union to convert the question of Afghanistan into an issue of secondary importance.

Naturally, just because Iraq started a war against Iran and the attention of the world was turned away from the question of Afghanistan, the said question would not be allowed to end in a way conducive to Soviet interests. It could be possible that one of the objectives behind the commencement of the war against the Islamic Revolution was to weaken Iran's role in the effort to organize the Afghan resistance movement. It was natural that under such circumstances the Eastern bloc would be attracted to the idea of supplying aid to Iraq. Apart from this, considering its special relationship with the Iraqi regime, the Soviet Union had calculated playing a mediating role between the two countries in the event of Iran's defeat in the war and the subsequent occupation of part of Iran's soil -- a calculation which would have strengthened the Soviet position in both countries. The extent of the Soviet Union's part in provoking the Zionist Saddam regime is still unclear at this moment. However, the remarks made by U.S. officials during the initial stages of the war have amplified this issue to a certain extent.

Speaking in an interview, the former U.S. president, Jimmy Carter, said that the United States and the Soviet Union had exchanged letters and views on the war Iraq started against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. secretary of state at that time, Edmund Muskie, is also on the record for confirming that the United States and the Soviet Union had common views regarding the war between Iran and Iraq. Apart from all this, Gromyko and Muskie met a few days after the beginning of the war and announced that both powers would remain impartial toward the war. However, as it is common knowledge, both of the superpowers failed to remain impartial in the course of the war and supplied every kind of military aid to Iraq.

Irrespective of its secret favoring of the armed clash between Iran and Iraq during the first few days of the war because of consideration for its own interests, the Soviet Union moved to take sides after observing the consecutive defeats suffered by Saddam, gradually making public its attitude in favor of the Saddam regime. And consequently, the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc moved in the face of the great victories achieved by the Islamic fighters and the numerous defeats suffered by the pro-Saddam elements to increase their aid to Saddam. In the course of this time, the Soviet Union and its allies tried to help Iraq. The Eastern bloc increased its military aid. However, the Soviet Union did not prefer to conceal that it was not pleased with the definite defeats of the Saddam forces and the expulsion of the Iraqi units from Iranian soil. It also moved to state that both Iran and Iraq were anti-imperialist and that the war was detrimental to both. The United States and its allies were benefitting from the war.

The Soviet Union did not stop choosing sides at that point. After the Islamic armed forces pushed the Saddam forces they defeated during the Moharram and Ramadan operations beyond Iran's borders, the Soviet Union stated that it did not approve of this state of affairs. On 14 July 1982, that is to say 24 hours after the Ramadan operation, Moscow radio announced that the Iranian military units had entered Iraq and described Iran's presence in Iraq as conflicting with the UN resolution calling for a cease-fire and with the good will displayed by Iraqi forces with their withdrawal from Iranian soil. Currently, the Soviet Union is openly supporting Iraq and is supplying modern arms to the Zionist Iraqis.

At this point, we should ask: Why is the Soviet Union adopting a stance against the Islamic Republic on the side of France, the United States and reactionary Arab regimes? Is this stance compatible with the Soviet claims regarding impartiality? And, most important of all, does the Soviet Union's stance against Iran, which has been waging a difficult struggle against imperialism all alone, tally with the remarks made by the patrons in Kremlin regarding support and aid for anti-imperialist struggles?

Undoubtedly, the oppressed of the world and particularly the Muslims of the world can reply to these questions better than anyone else.

## RECENT AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES REPORTED

### 250 Join Mujahidin

GF151730 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Mashhad, Jan. 15 IRNA -- Two-hundred-fifty Afghan Government troops (?in) Tulak of Ghurian Province, surrendered themselves to the Afghan Muslim mujahidin along with their armaments, on Dec. 25 1982 and announced their cooperation to fight against the atheists.

These Afghan deserters expressed their awareness of the realities of Islam and the revolution and said that they would fight to liberate Afghanistan and establish divine law in the country.

Meanwhile, informed sources from Zahedan say that in a guerrilla attack by the Afghan mujahidin on a column of joint Soviet and Afghan Government forces in the region of Chah Reg of Ghurian Governorate, 4 officers and 20 soldiers were killed.

The attack which took place on 13 Jan. 1983, lasted for a few hours, and a Kalashnikov, a heavy machine gun, and an armoured vehicle were taken as booty by the Afghan mujahidin.

### Kabul Electricity Cut

GF150840 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Two weeks after severing the electric supply by the Afghan mujahidin in Kabul, the Afghan capital is still experiencing dark nights. The Afghan mujahidin hit power stations in Kabul on 27 December -- the anniversary of the Soviet military attack against Afghanistan -- thus severing the electric supply in this city. It is known that the Afghan capital also is suffering from shortages in fuel supplies, including coal, which has effectively paralyzed all motor vehicle traffic in the city since last Tuesday. All this has taken place at a time when the temperature in this region dropped to -7 degrees centigrade.

'Severe Clashes' Cited

GF201750 Tehran IRNA in English at 1703 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Mashhad, Jan. 20 IRNA -- About 220 Soviet aggressors and Afghan soldiers were killed or wounded in the eight-day severe clashes between these forces and the Afghan Muslim combatants in the Balkh Province, northern Afghanistan some two weeks ago.

In these operations, which followed the bombardment of the Afghan Muslim revolutionary forces bases by the Soviet war planes in the said region, 10 Muslim fighters were martyred or wounded. Also, 10 tanks of the Soviet occupiers were destroyed in these clashes.

A related report reaching here said that two armoured tanks and a personnel carrier and two munitions tents of the aggressors were smashed recently when the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked the Ghurian Governorate centre, in Herat Province. Six Afghan Muslim defenders were wounded in this operation.

Farah Province Fighting

LD221218 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Zahed, Jan 20 IRNA -- Muslim Afghan combatants in a preplanned and coordinated attack in Farah Province killed 27 mercenaries belonged [as received] to Soviet installed regime in Kabul.

IRNA quoting informed sources, reported that the Muslim mujahedeen has surrounded the Galeh Chah Governorate and the war was still continuing with great intensity.

In retaliation [word indistinct] and helicopters of Soviet-Afghan joint forces bombed civilians in (Avar) village and inflicted heavy financial damages.

MKO OPERATIONS IN KORDESTAN DESCRIBED

GF202012 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] During the destruction of a base of the revolution guards in Kordestan, more than 60 of Khomeyni's (?criminal) revolution guards were killed. The Free Voice of Iran correspondent reports that the brave units of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) 6 days ago attacked a base at Marivan near Sar Dasht with RPG-7's, grenades, and machineguns.

During the operation, the [word indistinct] building and communications center of the base, which also serves as the communications center for three camps of Khomeyni's revolution guards in the region, were (?partially) destroyed. During the operation, five oppressors and killers of the people of Kordestan also were killed.

According to the report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, the MKO's peshmarga units 5 days earlier had attacked the base at (Jamal Shisheh), which was first attacked and destroyed on 21 December by peshmarga units and later rebuilt. It was again destroyed with RPG-7's and machineguns. During this attack, 35 of Khomeyni's revolution guards were killed.